

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13

MCT-01 /072 W

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O 111350Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0395

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: DAILY NEWS REPORTS THIRD CLASH BETWEEN BDF AND RHODESIAN
SECURITY FORCES

REF: (A) GABORONE 1808, (B) GABORONE 1799, (C) STATE 187369,
(D) LUSAKA 2360

1. AUGUST 11 DAILY NEWS HEADLINES ARTICLE, COMPLETE WITH
"COMBAT MAP" SUMMARIZING LATEST SERIES OF BDF CLASHES WITH
RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES (REFTELS) AND REHASHING SEVERAL
INCIDENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1976 AND EARLY 1977. ARTICLE
CONTAINS FIRST REPORT OF THIRD IN CURRENT SERIES OF CLASHES
WHICH IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEGUN AT 9:10 A.M., AUGUST 10, AND
LASTED FOR "OVER ONE HOUR". NO FURTHER DETAILS OF "UNPROVOKED
ATTACK" BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ON BDF ARE PROVIDED.
DETAILS OF TWO AUGUST 9 FIREFIGHTS ARE SUMMARIZED BY QUOTES
DRAWN FROM TWO STATEMENTS ISSUED BY OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

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REPORTED REFTELS. ARTICLE CONFIRMS THAT ATTACKS BY
"TERRORISTS FORCES OF RHODESIA" HAVE CAUSED NO BDF
CASULTIES.

2. ARTICLE STATES THAT, SINCE RHODESIAN DECLARATION OF
RESTRICTED SOUTHERN BORDER AS MILITARY RESTRICTED AREA ON FEBRUARY
16, "TERRORIST FORCES FROM RHODESIA HAVE BEEN CROSSING INTO

BOTSWANA TO ATTACK AND BURN VILLAGES, INTERROGATE, BEAT AND ABDUCT BOTSWANA CITIZENS". CENTERPIECE OF DAILY NEWS FRONT PAGE IS MAP IN WHICH ENTIRE RHODESIAN BORDER AREA OF BOTSWANA IS DARKENED AS IF TO DENOTE WAR ZONE. CAPTION IN LOWER RIGHT CORNER OF MAP READS "REBEL FORCES OPERATING IN THE WHOLE OF EASTERN BORDER OF BOTSWANA NOW DUBBED 'TANGENT' BY THE ILLEGAL REGIME".

3. ARTICLE RECOUNTS 1977 BORDER INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ALLEGED MAY 16 ATTACK ON BDF CAMP AT MAPOKA VILLAGE IN NORTHEAST DISTRICT BY 150 "TERRORISTS" WHO CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA. TRAVELERS ALONG NATA-KAZUNGULA HIGHWAY WERE REPORTEDLY MOLESTED BY "TERRORISTS" ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING JUNE, BUT NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING JULY. ARTICLE THEN REMINDS READERS OF NUMEROUS INCIDENTS ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING 1976, INCLUDING VIOLATIONS OF BOTSWANA AIR SPACE BY RHODESIAN HELICOPTERS, ABDUCTIONS OF BOTSWANA CITIZENS, AND BOMBING OF HOUSE IN FRANCISTOWN USED BY ZAPU.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM EXPANSIVE DAILY NEWS COVERAGE, GOB IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY CURRENT CLASHES ON RHODESIAN BORDER. IMPORTANCE OF GOB'S PROGRAM TO ENLARGE AND PROPERLY EQUIP BDF MAY, THEREFORE, BE REINFORCED IN MINDS OF BOTH BATSWANA AND POTENTIAL FOREIGN AID DONORS.

HOOVER

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Message Attributes

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